

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for connecting an I/O device to a central system including a cable connector having a memory for storing configuration information such as the type of the I/O device, characteristics of the I/O device, and/or the identity or characteristics of a user associated with the I/O device. Multiple universal slots are each capable of accepting the disclosed cable connector. When the disclosed connector is inserted into one of the slots, the central system operates to automatically detect the presence of the associated I/O device, and to read configuration information from the memory in the connector into memory within the central system. Configuration information read from the connector is used to configure the central system. The central system may use the configuration information from the connector memory to direct data and/or signals between the multiple universal slots and separate internal logic blocks associated with different types of I/O devices. User specific configuration information read by the central system from the connector memory may be used to configure user specific functions, such as, for example, speech recognition. The central system may further write various types of configuration information to the memory in the cable connector. Such information may include user specific characteristics determined during operation of the device, such as user specific speech characteristics.